

## THE RUSH ARRIVES.

### AND BRINGS COMMISSIONER BLOUNT AND SUITE.

Honolulu Has an Eruption of Flags and Badges—Preparation for a Public Reception.

At 9:15 this morning the telephone announced a United States steamer off Coco Head, which was believed by the lookouts to the Revenue cutter Rush. The news spread like wildfire in an August clearing and in a few moments there was a flame of excitement throughout the business streets.

By half past nine o'clock Fort and Merchant streets presented a lively scene, and the Annexation Club's headquarters became the local center where information was sought. The Club's telephone was in constant use and kept Secretary Jones busy replying to such questions as "Is that the Rush?" "Are the Commissioners coming?" "Has the Rush passed Diamond?" and a hundred other eager interrogations.

The news of the cutter's arrival caused the principal streets to assume a gala appearance long before ten o'clock, and a glance along Fort street showed that almost every business house was flying the stars and stripes from poles and windows, while many of the stores were speedily covered with the bunting and small flags until it seemed as if the Fourth of July had unexpectedly arrived.

Jack Lucas was the first citizen to throw the American flag to the breeze and before half past nine it was floating over the Honolulu Planing Mill on Fort street. "I couldn't resist," said Jack to a *STAR* reporter, "when I heard the Rush was coming and I got her up first, you bet!"

It was nearly 11 o'clock when the Rush entered the channel. A crowd had already gathered on the wharves along the water front, and annexation badges were as thick as blackberries among the throng. Shortly before the Rush entered the harbor, a deputation of about fifty members of the women's branch of the Hawaiian Patriotic League, marched down Fort street and took up their station on the Inter-Island wharf. They carried, alternately, American and Hawaiian flags and a large Hawaiian banner, trimmed with maile was borne at the head of the procession, which was under the charge and direction of Mrs. George Beckley. It was the intention of the deputation to meet and welcome the Commission as soon as they landed, and much disappointment was felt when it was learned they would be a delay in landing.

Eager faces scanned the vessel from the wharves as she came to anchor and swung around into naval row between the U. S. S. Boston and the Naniwa. Many attempted to recognize and locate Admiral Brown or General Schofield, who were expected to be of the Commission, but the attempt failed as it was soon learned that neither of these gentlemen were aboard.

Arrangements had previously been made by the Executive Committee of the Annexation Club for the occasion and a Reception Committee had been appointed, consisting of General Alfred S. Hartwell, Prof. M. M. Scott and Dr. John S. McGrew.

The committee went on board the Mohican about ten o'clock, with the American Minister, Hon. John L. Stevens; and by Admiral Skerrett's kind permission were taken in his steam launch, accompanied by his aide, Lieut. Fox, on board the Rush, almost as soon as she dropped her anchor.

It was at once learned that Colonel Blount, of Georgia, lately chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, was on board as the sole Commissioner from the United States, accompanied by Mrs. Blount and by his private secretary, Ellis Mills.

Commissioner Blount informed the American Minister of his desire to proceed quietly to a hotel and to receive no demonstrations. Upon being informed by the Reception Committee that they were authorized to see that everything was done which could be performed for the comfort and pleasure of the Commissioner and his party, and that the Wilder mansion was placed at their disposal, they were informed by the Commissioner that while he desired to express his very sincere thanks for the attentions offered and already shown, he would first go to a hotel, and after a short rest, which both he and Mrs. Blount were greatly in need of, he would be pleased to meet the Reception Committee either this afternoon or to-morrow.

The Reception Committee after an introduction to Mrs. Blount, and a few moments of agreeable conversation with that lady, shook hands with the Commissioner and came ashore.

Colonel Blount of Georgia is a fine looking Southern gentleman of the old school and does not look to be over fifty years of age, although his hair is almost white. He is about five feet nine or ten inches in height, straight as an arrow, with his hair cropped close and clean shaved. His eyes are bright and penetrating and his manner with strangers is affable and engaging. The Commissioner shook hands heartily with the *STAR* reporter, who boarded the Rush shortly after the reception committee, and there was a merry twinkle in the Colonel's eye when he learned that the *STAR* was an annexation paper supported by a large majority of the residents and citizens of Honolulu. "I have had so much to do with reporters in my life," said the Commissioner jokingly, "that I have learned the importance of keeping still when

they are around." And keep still he did; although he cordially invited the *STAR* man to visit him at the hotel as soon as the party were comfortably at home ashore.

Mrs. Blount is a charming lady of elegant manners, and, like Mrs. Cleveland, she wins the heart on sight and leaves a lasting impression that she is of a gentle and gracious character of that type which has made the southern women noted the world over. She was dressed this morning in a traveling suit of black; and as she sat in her cabin talking pleasantly with the American Minister and Consul Severance, the visitors to the Rush were all agreed that her stay in Honolulu would greatly add to the deep interest already attaching to the visit of the Commission, as well as to the general social conditions accompanying the event.

The Rush brought a small private newspaper and letter mail for the United States ships in port. She came down in nine days under sail and steam, making about 12 knots an hour. Commissioner Blount says he enjoyed the trip greatly, and that he is sure he shall see and learn much of personal as well as of public interest during his stay in the Paradise of the Pacific. "We left San Francisco on last Monday a week ago at a quarter past one o'clock," said Colonel Blount, "and I have not missed a meal and don't intend to, as long as I can find enough to eat. Yes, we enjoyed the trip but at times it was a little rough owing to head seas; but the Rush is a good sailer and was made very comfortable for us. I shall expect to gather all the information I can while in the islands and am very favorably impressed with what I have seen so far."

The arrival of the Rush was the signal for the starting of all sorts of wild rumors against annexation, and, as usual, most of these came from native sources. Among others it was reported that the instructions of Commissioner Blount were to withdraw the Boston's troops, haul down the American flag and then enter into new negotiations with whatever government came to the top, as the "Survival of the fittest." The credulity of the natives caused many congratulations among members of the "Patriotic" and royalist leagues; and some of the better known leaders of these factional movements even went so far as to encourage the average native in his delusion and thereby stimulate, if possible, the waning opposition to annexation.

As the Rush came to anchor this morning in the stream before swinging into her place in naval row, the Hawaiian band which had been stationed aboard the steamer Australia suddenly struck up the Star Spangled Banner. The music drew general attention to the big steamer which was crowded with people and was gaily decorated with American and Hawaiian flags.

This afternoon at one o'clock Commissioner Blount and party, accompanied by the American Minister, left the Rush and were soon at the boat landing where they entered a wagonette and were driven to the Snow Cottage at the Hawaiian Hotel, where they are at present domiciled.

### THE CIVIL SERVICE.

How Vacancies in it Will be Filled by the Government.

For several days leaders of the anti annexation factions have circulated rumors that the Provisional Government had taken a stand regarding civil appointments favorable to the royalist faction in Honolulu. It has been persistently said that such a policy was announced by President Dole in answer to demands made by a Committee of one appointed to wait upon him by some newly organized, or about-to-be-organized semi-political movement.

An investigation proves that these rumors started from a personal interview which occurred a few days ago between a local newspaper reporter and the President.

The interview was substantially as follows: President Dole was asked what was the attitude of the Provisional Government regarding appointments. The substance of the reply was that "the competency of the candidate or official will be considered first of all things, either in appointments or removals. If a man has proved a good official, and, even though opposed to the policy of the government, he remains passive in political matters, it would not be considered sufficient grounds for removal, as the Civil Service would undoubtedly suffer through such a course. It is the intention of the Executive in filling official vacancies to give precedence to the sympathizers and supporters of the government, provided suitable men are available at the time, or can be found."

### RECALLED.

Minister Smith and Consul General Pratt Lose Their Jobs.

It is understood that the Government has recalled Frank Pratt, Hawaiian Consul at San Francisco, and Hon. J. Mott Smith, Hawaiian Minister at Washington. Letters were forwarded to these gentlemen by today's mail, but requesting them to remain at their duties until their successors are chosen and have qualified.

### Davies Goes Home.

It is stated that Collector Cleghorn is not pleased with the Kaiulani mission. He said this morning, that Davies had made a fool of himself and gone back to England. The English interference was a bad thing for the Hawaiian royalists from start to finish.

Commissioner Thurston is making annexation speeches in the United States. He has been heard at Newark Conn., and at Ithaca, N. Y.

## HAWAIIAN INTERESTS.

### EXTRACTS FROM AMERICAN PAPERS REGARDING THEM.

Interesting News about the Blount Mission—Moreno's Ruse—Coast Comment.

It is stated by the New York *Herald* that Mr. Blount has authority similar to that of Mr. Sedgwick who was sent to Mexico by Secretary Bayard as a special envoy to investigate the Cutting affair. He is said to be conservative on the Hawaiian question and will investigate the relation of the sugar planters to Liliuokalani's overthrow.

Celso Caesar Moreno has presented Cleveland with copies of the Honolulu *Daily News* containing tart editorials in regard to the Hawaiian Commissioners and about the annexationists. As there is no such paper here it is likely that a bogus print was issued, either in Honolulu or America, with which to deceive the President. The matter will be investigated at once.

The Massachusetts Legislature has memorialized Congress in favor of an annexation.

The San Francisco *Chronicle* says: "There can be no question as to the sterling quality of Mr. Blount's Americanism and that is just what is wanted on a commission of this kind. We find Mr. Davies, the English guardian of the Princess Kaiulani, asserting that if a plebiscite were ordered in Hawaii ten thousand out of fourteen thousand voters would be against annexation; but he abstains from explaining that a large majority of this possible fourteen thousand votes would be those of pro-annexation Kanakas, who are incapable of forming and expressing an intelligent political opinion as so many Pute Indians in the Sierra Nevada mountains, or the Chinese from the Chinese quarter of this city."

One of the prominent coast papers states that Mr. Blount will not make his report under two months and that annexation will not be passed upon before October.

Associated Press dispatches say that Commissioner Castle will leave San Francisco for Honolulu on the 31st. The other Commissioners will remain in Washington to await the outcome of Blount's visit.

Rev. Sereno Bishop discusses the franchise question at length in the *Chronicle's* correspondence of March 18th. That paper, in its issue of the 17th, has a voluminous Honolulu letter from the pen of its staff correspondent.

Editorially a leading paper says: "The appointment of Blount to act as Executive Commissioner to Hawaii, has been the signal for many of the people in favor of and against annexation, who have hitherto made Washington their base, to transfer their operations to the Islands. Mr. Blount, who will arrive to day, and who, in all probability will immediately sail on the Rush for Honolulu, is being followed by Hawaiian Commissioners Castle and Thurston, and Paul Neumann, the attorney for the Queen, who will reach the islands nearly as soon as the President's commissioner. Mr. Blount, it is quite evident from these facts, is to be posted very fully, and what he don't know about Hawaii when he gets through with his investigation will not be worth knowing."

### BRITONS TOO EAGER.

The Administration Doesn't Like English Meddling.

CHICAGO, March 18.—A Washington special says: English intrigues in Hawaii may cause a change in the administration's policy. There was a raising of eyebrows in official circles over the dispatches which told how the Royalists were looking for support from English interests and how Major Wodehouse, the British Minister, was seeking to discredit the provisional Government. His meddling was natural enough, for he has all along been in favor of the Queen. It does not seem to have occurred to some officials here that there was any meddling by another Englishman.

Davies, the guardian of Princess Kaiulani, on coming to Washington on a self appointed mission, has been given plenty of unofficial encouragement here and has shown his delight at the apparent unfriendliness of Cleveland's administration to annexation. Davies is the agent at Honolulu of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. It was he who secured the rejection of the treaty negotiated by Blaine, but his present intrigues are not so dangerous as those of the British Minister in Honolulu, and the administration seems to recognize this.

Prince David of Hawaii, who went to Washington to intercede in behalf of Queen Liliuokalani, is here on his return journey. He expresses the belief that the Queen will be restored to power.

Washington, March 18.—Hawaiian matters were again discussed at the Cabinet meeting. The result took the form of two typewritten pages of additional instructions to Commissioner Blount. The most that can be made out of it is that additional instructions were made necessary in the light of the last news from Hawaii. It is believed the reports indicating increased activity on the part of the English have prompted a change in previous instructions, so as to offset any inroads that may be made upon the influence maintained up to that time by the American representatives at Honolulu.

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### ANNEXATION CLUB.

THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE Executive Committee of the Annexation Club, Room 6 Campbell Block, will be open from 8 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. and from 7 P.M. until 9 P.M.

All those wishing to sign the membership roll may do so during those hours.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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